has also been taken to import silk yarn to bring about moderation in silk yarn prices in the country.

(iv.) Existing fiscal measures to increase the competitiveness of the hand-looms include complete exemption from excise duty of plain reel hank yarn, concession in excise duty on double cross reeled hank yarn for registered hondloom cooperative socities and State level Corporations. Fiscal measures also include complete or partial concession in duties on processing of fabrics made on handlooms. In the new budget, fiscal concessions have been given to facilitate reeling of yarn into hank form outside the mill premises.

Implementation of the project of 'Shilp Gram' by Rajasthan Government

609.. SHRI B.L. PANWAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to direct the State Government of Rajasthan to implement the project of 'Shilp Gram' at Jodhpur which is pending since long for the upliftment of artisans;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to provide Central Assistance to complete this project, if so, what will be the amount of such assistance ?

. THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASFIOK GEHLOT) : (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to direct the State Government of Rajasthan to implement the project of 'Shilp Gram' at Jodhpur. However, the proposal to set up two Urban Haats for Handicrafts at Jodhpur and Amber received from Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation has been approved.

(b) The main objective of organising these two Haats at Jodhpur and Amber is to provide an opportunity for direct commercial interaction. between the. buyers and the craftsmen/artisans who are living ir remote areas of Rajasthan. These Urbar Haats would function for 4 months (frojr October 15 to February 15) every year.

(c) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 6,97,50(being 75% of the total project cost o Rs. 9.30 lakhs has been sanctioned ti Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation fo setting up of the two Urban Haats a Jodhpur and Amber.

Insurance of Handloom Weavers in Andhr Pradesh

610. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH Will the Minister of TEXTILES be please to state :

(a) whether 12,000 handloom weavers i the districts of Prakasam and Guntu Andhra Pradesh have been covered by ins ranee as announced by Government as measure of relief to handloom weavei and

(b) if so, what are the details of tl schemes as approved by the L.I.C. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF TP MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHC GEHLOT) : (a) and (b) A sum Rs. 7.20 lakhs as Central share was releas to Government of Andhra Pradesh to coi 12,000 handloom weavers in Krishna, P: kasam and Guntur districts of Andhra P: desh under Group Insurance Scheme. 1 State Government has reported that tl have held discussions with the Life In ranee Corporation, and arc in the proc of identifying nodal agencies who wo; collect contributions towards premium fr the weavers on a regular basis.

Construction of Houses by Handlo Weavers

611. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH : theMinister of TEXTILES be pleased state;

(a) whether there is a scheme for c struction of houses by handloom weav in cooperatives;

(b) if so, the details thereof;